

March 19, 1998

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
CALFED PROGRAM  
Burbank, CA

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As chair of the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County's Bay/Delta CALFED Program, there are two general points I want to emphasize.

First, Orange County and its adjacent neighbors have been investing heavily in programs designed to implement a strong water ethic.

- a. Construction of reclaimed water projects throughout the County, especially the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System. The latter by 2020 will provide 100,000 acre-feet of supplemental new water, which will lessen the need for and drain on imported sources.
- b. Several Orange County agencies are working to develop colored water sources to supplement imported water. The Mesa Consolidated Water District and its neighbor, the City of Long Beach have programs already in place. Mesa Consolidated is committed to add \$7 million to an already existing investment of \$2 million in colored water wells. Long Beach has a new colored water treatment plant that cost \$51 million dollars with 25 color wells and seven new ones planned, each costing from \$750,000 to one million each.
- c. Orange County agencies have adopted Best Management Practices. I have attached to this letter a complete report how one agency, Mesa Consolidated has implemented all fourteen.

For the fruits of these investments to be enjoyed fully, we need a successful CALFED solution to restore the Delta. One major concern is that we have heard conflicting comments on best management practices. Dick Daniel told us in Pasadena on December 3 that they would be voluntary. We have heard that they will be mandatory, with incentives, with disincentives. If we are to plan future water development in Southern California, we need clear and distinct resolution of this issue. We suggest that BDAC continue to work closely with the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

2. Finally, Southern California is making strides in meeting goals of California 4.4 million acre feet which will diminish supplies from the Colorado River. To make that adjustment work for Southern Californians, there must also be a successful Delta solution that provides assurances for all involved and that will achieve apace a balance between urban, agricultural and environmental interests.

Respectfully,



Henry S. Panian, Chair, WACO Committee on Bay/Delta-CALFED